

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER 1380

WHEREAS, it is crucial that students in Mississippi learn how to read at a young age; and

WHEREAS, teachers are the key to students learning how to read; and

WHEREAS, training teachers to teach reading based on practices supported by scientific research is very important; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi currently has fifteen traditional route teacher preparation programs utilizing various strategies for teachers of literacy; and

WHEREAS, in December 2015 the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and the Barksdale Reading Institute published the 2014-15 Study of Mississippi Teacher Preparation for Early Literacy Instruction; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to address recommendations from the 2014-15 Study of Mississippi Teacher Preparation for Early Literacy Instruction and develop an action plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. The Governor's Task Force on Teacher Preparation for Early Literacy is created to recommend practical mechanisms and timeframes for all personnel involved in preparing, teaching, coaching, or supervising K-3 instruction to have a working knowledge of the body of educational and cognitive science that supports best practice for early literacy instruction.
2. The Governor's Task Force on Teacher Preparation for Early Literacy shall be composed of representatives from Mississippi's Institutes of Higher Learning, Mississippi Department of Education, Kindergarten through 3rd grade educators and administrators in Mississippi, 2016 Mississippi university and college graduates, the Barksdale Reading Institute and a staff member of the Governor's Office, who shall be the Chair. The Governor shall appoint such number of members and a Chair as he deems necessary. Members of the Governor's Task Force on Teacher Preparation for Early Literacy shall serve voluntarily.
3. The Governor's Task Force on Teacher Preparation for Early Literacy shall meet at least monthly at the call of the Chair to discuss recommendations from the 2014-15 Study of Mississippi Teacher Preparation for Early Literacy Instruction and develop an action plan with timelines that shall include:
 - a. Developing for statewide adoption a set of Standards of Practice for Delivery of Professional Development specific to early literacy instruction, based on the nationally recognized Standards for Professional Learning, recommendations of the National Reading Panel, and the meta-analyses on visible learning;
 - b. Establishing a mechanism requiring all service providers to utilize these Standards of Practice for Delivery of Professional Development specific to early literacy instruction;
 - c. Designing a formal credentialing process (including timeframe) for Early Literacy 1 & Early Literacy 2 pre-service faculty to ensure knowledge of the educational and cognitive science that supports effective practice and demonstrates the ability to teach the five components of reading based on this science;

- d. Determining if further action is needed to implement with consistency the revised content and structure of Early Literacy 1 and Early Literacy 2 courses as drafted by the Higher Education Literacy Council; and
- e. Reviewing current status of licensure and pre-service program approval processes and recommend specific actions to ensure effective training and certification of education practitioners for literacy instruction.

The Governor's Task Force on Teacher Preparation for Early Literacy shall be convened by the Governor before June 30, 2016, and provide to the Governor written policy recommendations by October 31, 2016, which will be accessible to legislators and the public.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that this Executive Order shall become effective immediately upon its execution and shall remain in effect until amended, modified, or rescinded by the Governor.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 15th day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand and sixteen, and of the independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fortieth.


PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR



C. DELBERT HOSEMAN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE